

School Readiness Initiative Successful Launch

**First 5 California Children and
Families Commission**

January 2004



Why Invest in School Readiness?



California's children will be healthier and better prepared to reach their greatest potential in school and in life. (CCFC Vision)

School Readiness Initiative provides:

- Ongoing First 5 investment with ALL County Commissions
- Consistent Framework for First 5 efforts – State and County programs, public education and advocacy, and evaluation functions
- Platform for initiating new efforts – e.g., Health Access, PFA Demonstration Projects, Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs Project, and implementation of the First 5 Equity Principles

Accomplishments:

- All 58 County Commissions participating
- 207 SR Programs in process



Target Communities for CCFC School Readiness Programs

Communities served by schools with Academic Performance Index (API) in deciles 1-3, estimate:

- 1385 schools
- About 800,000 children (0-5)
- 85% low income
- 48% English Language Learners
- 75% Latino

Accomplishments:

CCFC, County Commissions, and local partners provide \$413M for 4-year SR Program (3 year launch)



5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Early Care and Education
- Parenting/Family Support
- Health and Social Services
- Schools' Readiness for Children
- Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration

5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Early Care and Education
 - * *Expansion of Early Head Start, Even Start*
 - * *Increase in Preschool Programs*
 - * *Use of ECE Home Visiting Programs and mobile service delivery*
 - * *Professional Development for all ECE Providers and linkage with CRI*
 - * *Focus on providing culturally/linguistically appropriate services that are inclusive of children with disabilities/other special needs*

5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Parenting/Family Support
 - * *Adult Education, Family Literacy, and ESL/CBET with diverse providers*
 - * *Parenting Education and Support Systems*
 - * *Research based Home Visiting Programs*
 - * *Care Coordination and Case Management*
 - * *Expansion of Family Resource Centers*

5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Health and Social Services
 - * *Health Insurance Enrollment and Connection to a 'Medical Home'*
 - * *Increase in Early Behavioral and Mental Health Assessments, Screenings, and Connections to Services*
 - * *Expanded partnerships with Oral Health, Nutrition/WIC, School Health services*
 - * *Care Coordination*

5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Schools' Readiness for Children
 - * *Articulation of assessments, standards, curriculum between ECE and Schools*
 - * *Shared professional development*
 - * *K Orientation; Transition Planning and Programs; and Resources*
 - * *Improved Communication with Families*
 - * *Policy and Program Supports from Schools*

5 Essential and Coordinated Elements for School Readiness

- Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration
 - * *Expansion of Coordination and Advisory Groups including Families with Children 0-5*
 - * *Expanded and Improved Facilities*
 - * *Improved Communication, Public Education, and Outreach*
 - * *Focused SR Evaluation and Improvement*
 - * *Incredible Partnerships !*

Accomplishments:

Coordinated ELEVEN Peer Reviews for Statewide Consistency that built on extensive County Commission development process

**Special thanks to
90 SR Reviewers
representing 33
Counties**



Accomplishments:

Technical Assistance

- CCFC: Information Meetings; Conference Calls; Statewide Conferences and Workshops; Consultation and Presentations
- UCLA Interagency Agreement: SR ToolKits, Listserv, SR Website, Consultation, Regional Meetings and Webcasts
- County Partner Resources

Accomplishments:

Technical Assistance Products

- 5 Regional Meetings (4 sites each) including Early Language/Literacy and Dual Language, Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs, Transitions to K
- 2 Webcasts
- SR 2-Day Symposium
- Library of SR Briefs on 5 Essential Elements and other key issues

Next Steps:

- Use SR evaluation process to harvest and disseminate ‘promising practices’
- Establish quality standards across 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements”
- Align technical assistance to better support County Commissions and meet local SR Program needs
- Strengthen implementation of Equity Principles
- Coordinate program, evaluation, technical assistance, and public education efforts

Celebrate

Congratulations to ALL County
Commissions and Local
Partners for successful launch
of the First 5

School Readiness Initiative

